



Capitol
NEWS

State Senator Martha G. Scott

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION FOR MY CONSTITUENTS IN THE 2ND DISTRICT

August 2005

How To Reach Me

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Coffee Hours

Coffee hours are held
from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Detroit:

First Monday of every
month at McDonald's,
10400 Gratiot Ave.

Hamtramck:

Second Monday of every
month at the Maine Street
Restaurant, 11650 Joseph
Campau St.

Grosse Pointes/ Harper Woods:

Third Monday of every
month at the Caribou Coffee
Company, 19419 Mack Ave.

Highland Park:

Fourth Monday of every
month at McDonald's,
14124 Woodward Ave.

Please join me!

Dear Friends,

A lot is happening in our state and in the Detroit Metropolitan area. In this region of southeastern Michigan, new housing and capital investments are breathing life into urban areas that once struggled on life support. Highland Park is steadily improving the quality of life for its residents through much improved public schools, affordable housing, and public safety.

Statewide, continuing budget talks have everyone holding their collective breath for a responsible and compassionate resolution to our economic challenges. Public health care, education, and a safety net for our most vulnerable citizens are key areas that require continued support under watchful eyes.

I will keep you informed as the budget process continues. We are in a pivotal time in our history. Michigan can either move forward with equitable and affordable personal insurance rates, accessible health care, and enhanced education; or, we can regress to a divided state where the poor are marginalized, the working middle class is diminished, and the wealthy are robbed of an opportunity to invest in the lives of others.

We must come together to fix what ails us and I believe it starts with lawmakers. I look forward to visiting with each of you at my Monday Coffee Hours.

Sincerely,

Martha G. Scott

State Senator • 2nd District

Proposed Budgets Cut State Growth

Lawmakers cut more than \$45 million from Detroit, Wayne County, and Wayne State University in a proposed budget for FY 2005-2006.

They've turned tough choices into callous decisions. For some, it's easy to interrupt or destroy someone's health care services, college education, or

primary education process. They don't feel the pain and they seemingly escape the repercussions.

There is one truth of life: you reap what you sow. The root of Michigan's slow financial recovery is that most of our policy decisions are driven by partisan or social

ideology instead of what is best for every citizen of this state.

Southeastern Michigan, the working class, the elderly, and our children are hardest hit by the budget bills being passed by state lawmakers.

Continued on page 2

Proposed Budgets Cut State Growth *continued from page 1*

When one considers the state’s largest city and county are located in southeastern Michigan, which is mostly populated by the working class who are steadily losing jobs, one can conclude that Michigan is making war against itself.

Here are examples of some of the proposed cuts:

Department of Community Health

- \$20 million in cuts to medical and mental health programs.
- 36,000 children, elderly, and vulnerable citizens will be removed from Medicaid.
- 43,000 caregiver relatives (people who take care of family members) and young people ages 19-21 will lose their Medicaid coverage.
- Parents who cannot afford private health insurance for their children and have turned to MICHild will have to pay increased premiums or lose health care for their children.
- Cuts to Healthy Michigan programs will abolish funding

for the Alzheimer’s Information Network, dental & hearing screening, child & adult arthritis, health disparities, infant mortality, migrant health, and diabetes outreach programs.

Higher Education

- Wayne State University will lose \$10.4 million, or 5% of its state funding. (Some universities in other parts of the state received increases upwards of 22%. The disparity is glaring and hopefully will be stopped by Gov. Granholm.)
- WSU officials will be forced to consider raising tuition rates to recover funding loss. The domino effect will cause lower enrollment and a lesser investment in the community. (WSU is unique and provides this state with diverse graduates – the very people we need to renew our economy’s growth.)

K-12 School Aid

- This budget cuts \$15 million from DPS. These monies



funded the appointed school board that will remain in power until January 2006. The district does not have money to cover these costs.

- The budget doesn’t include increased funding as recommended by Governor Granholm for at-risk youth. Funding levels will remain static with a growing need.
- Legislators failed to adopt Governor Granholm’s suggestion of a \$50 increase in per-pupil funding for high school students. Studies have shown that it costs more to educate high school students than other

students in the education system.

Department of Corrections

- More than \$1.15 million was cut for Hepatitis C testing and treatment. (Lawmakers have turned their backs on many women and children whose lives will be changed by this insidious disease. Just last year, the legislature allocated \$1.2 million for new Hepatitis C testing and treatment for Michigan prisoners. Back-peddling will only worsen the problem.)

Health Fair...October 1...Save the Date

Senator Scott is pleased to announce the return of her annual health fair. This year’s fair will be held on Saturday, October 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Highland Park Career Academy on Glendale Ave. (at Second Ave).

This year’s theme is: **“Health Literacy:**

Taking Charge of Your Health.” In addition to numerous vendors who will provide valuable health information and free screenings, there will also be a keynote speaker and two classroom sessions on health literacy.

Nearly 200 people attended last year’s health fair. Sen. Scott

encourages the public to attend this **FREE** community event.

For more information on becoming a vendor, a sponsor of this event, or to sign up for one of the free classroom sessions,

please call **1-800-SCOTT-78** or **517-373-7748**. Light refreshments will be served.

October 2005						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

State Law Honors Freedom Day, Sojourner Truth

Senator Scott furthered the cause of cultural recognition when her two-part bill—to observe Juneteenth National Freedom Day and to celebrate the life of Sojourner Truth—was signed into law by Gov. Granholm.

Michigan joins the ranks of 17 other states across the country that recognize Juneteenth as an official state holiday. Now, as a matter of law, the third Saturday in June of each year is “Juneteenth National Freedom Day” and November 26 of each year has been designated “Sojourner Truth Day.”

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in this country. The celebration originated in Texas during the Civil War period when news of the Emancipation Proclamation, signed by President Abraham Lincoln in September 1862, reached Texas in June 1865.

The Texas slaves immediately left their plantations, congregated in the cities, and began celebrating their freedom by praying, feasting, dancing, and singing. Sen. Scott is hopeful this official day of recognition will

encourage individuals from all walks of life to pause and reflect upon the agony of slavery and the ecstasy of its abolition.

The law also creates Sojourner Truth Day. Born a slave named Isabella in 1797, Sojourner Truth chose her new name after she escaped slavery. Ms. Truth traveled the country speaking passionately about the evils of slavery and advocated strongly for the equal rights of women, and several other human justice movements during the 19th century. She



inspired many to work in support of human rights issues.

Ms. Truth was a Michigander who lived in Battle Creek from 1857 until her death on November 26, 1883.

Scott Continues Fight for Affordable Insurance

Senator Scott recently participated in a Detroit town hall meeting on the unaffordability of auto and homeowner’s insurance. Testimony proved the time to act is now.

To date, more than a dozen bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate, with no hearings scheduled. Sen. Scott, alone, has sponsored five bills that are stalled in the Senate Banking and Financial Institutions committee.

She has requested hearings be held on these bills to begin the process of developing a practical and effective solution to Michigan’s insurance problem.

Sen. Scott continues to push for legislative action to reduce auto and homeowner’s insurance rates around the state, especially for Detroit and its neighboring communities. For more information on these efforts, go to: www.insuranceredlining.com

Scott Insurance Rx

- SB 23** Requires property and casualty insurers to deal fairly and in good faith
- SB 25** Requires auto insurers to deal fairly and in good faith
- SB 26** Prohibits the use of geographic location as a rating factor

- SB 27** Requires insurers to submit an annual report on certain claims data
- SB 200** Requires prior approval of insurance rates and authorizes the commissioner to reduce rates if they are determined to be excessive

Insurance Redlining

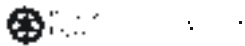
Are you fed up with the high costs of auto and homeowner's insurance?

www.insuranceredlining.com



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Martha G. Scott

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Educators Converge on Capitol for K-16 Funding

More than 10,000 teachers, parents, and concerned citizens from across Michigan marched on the state Capitol to gain guaranteed funding for Kindergarten through college education.

Nearly every school district in the state was represented by teachers who support Senate Bill 246. The legislation assures funding for

three branches of education: K-12, community colleges, and higher education.

Beginning with fiscal year 2005-2006, total funding would be guaranteed to increase from previous funding levels set in fiscal year 2002-2003. For every year after, total funding would be guaranteed to increase 5% or by the rate of inflation, whichever is least.

As Michigan moves from a manufacturing base to more technological industries, the workforce must be better prepared. Our children must be ready to compete internationally for the best jobs.

Under-funding education will gut our state and render us helpless in attracting new business and retaining our best and brightest residents. We



owe it to our children and we owe it to ourselves to guarantee K-16 funding.



Left: Sen. Scott, left, along with Senators Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods), right, and Deborah Cherry (D-Burton), not pictured, held a press conference on consumer rights initiatives adopted by their caucus.



Above: Sen. Scott, right, met with 2004 Democratic vice presidential candidate, John Edwards, left, to discuss efforts in Michigan to increase the state minimum wage. Mr. Edwards held discussions with lawmakers following a rally on the front steps of the state Capitol.



Left: Sen. Scott, far right, and staffer Jessie Weston, far left, honor interns Julie Kraft, left, and Kyle Mays, right, at the close of their internship programs. Both interns are Lansing Everett graduates.